



Literacy B.C. NEWSLETTER

March 1997

Volume 3, Number 1

NLS Receives Funding Increase

The National Literacy Secretariat (NLS) will receive an additional \$7 million this year to fund projects and programs that promote literacy across Canada.

The 31% increase in funding to the NLS is part of the federal government's 1997/98 budget, announced by the Honourable Paul Martin, Minister of Finance, on February 18. The NLS was created in 1988 to promote research, training, and concerted action towards the development of Canadians' literacy skills.

Funding for the NLS will increase to \$29.3 million. "This increased support will assist Canadians in their transition to the new knowledge-based economy by building a strong foundation of basic literacy and communication skills . . . Increased literacy is at the heart of the lifelong learning needed for individuals and organizations to adapt in the changing global economy," says the budget plan.

The NLS will focus the additional funds in two areas:

- ◆ **Family literacy:** promoting family literacy projects, supporting research, and funding the development of Canadian-made family reading materials.
- ◆ **Workplace literacy:** developing more Canadian-made workplace learning materials; training specialized workplace literacy practitioners; developing pilot workplace programs; and funding new areas of research.

The NLS will also place increased emphasis on further developing three support mechanisms to strengthen the Canadian literacy community:

- ◆ **Research** into the nature of low literacy; the range of skills among Canadians; and how to address needs at different skill levels.

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- ◆ **An electronic infrastructure** to improve: access to computer-based learning systems for learners and workers, information-sharing; and communication.
- ◆ The production of up-to-date, high quality **literacy learning materials** tailored to learners' individual needs in different settings.

The funding increase was recommended by the Standing Committee on Finance in December,

after reviewing the Canadian data from the 1996 International Adult Literacy Survey and listening to presentations from national literacy organizations.

The Committee recognized the important role of the NLS, under the leadership of Senator Joyce Fairbairn, in supporting the Canadian literacy community. It concluded that, "Even so, the demands on literacy organizations and their large numbers of volunteers far exceed their resources." 

**Let's show our appreciation for this increase
in funding to the NLS - write a letter to
the Minister of Finance!**

February 20, 1997

**The Honourable Paul Martin
Minister of Finance
Government of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario**

Dear Minister Martin:

As President of Literacy B.C. I would like to thank and congratulate you and your colleagues for the attention paid in the recent budget to the increase in funding to the National Literacy Secretariat.

The work and support that the Liberal Cabinet, particularly Senator Fairbairn, have shown towards literacy is most appreciated by all of those associated with this issue across Canada.

While your ability to do all of the things that Canadians would like is limited due to the other overriding issues you as Finance Minister must address, the fact that you were able to do this for literacy is strong indication of the importance the Liberal government places on this essential ingredient to helping all our citizens grow, and hopefully prosper, in their own lives.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Literacy B.C. I again thank you for your support and that of Senator Fairbairn.

**Yours truly,
Alan N. Dolman**

**c: The Right Honourable Jean Chretien
The Honourable Joyce Fairbairn**

Raising public awareness about IALS

What are the implications of the recent data from the International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS) for the development of policies that will support literacy in B.C.?

That's the focus of Literacy B.C.'s public awareness campaign about the importance of IALS for British Columbians.

Detailed Canadian data from IALS was released by Statistics Canada and the NLS in September 1996. The data indicate that over 40% of working age Canadians have some degree of difficulty with reading and writing. IALS raises important policy issues about the relationship between literacy and factors such as education, income, occupation, and the use and practice of literacy skills at work and at home.

Here's what we're doing to raise awareness:

- ◆ A summary of key findings from IALS (first published in the *Literacy B.C. Newsletter*) has been widely distributed and is available from us upon request.

- ◆ A series of five *Did you know?*... information pamphlets about IALS, and its implications, are being mailed to B.C. MP's, MLA's, and other key stakeholders throughout the province.

- ◆ Regional roundtables will be held over the next two months for local business and labour groups, literacy providers, and representatives from

health, education, social service, justice and seniors groups. Local cable outlets will be invited to tape and broadcast the discussions.

- ◆ Formal presentations to key stakeholders have been made or are planned. These groups include, among others, the B.C. Teachers' Federation, the Canadian Labour Congress, the B.C. Federation of Labour, MacMillan Bloedel, and the Advanced Education Council of B.C.

- ◆ A full-day symposium in Vancouver in June 1997 for business, labour, education, and government representatives will explore IALS and workforce education in depth. 

Schedule of regional roundtables

April 7 - 8 Prince George
April 10 Dawson Creek
April 11 Fort St. John
April 24 - 25 Invermere & Cranbrook
April 28 - 29 Castlegar & Nakusp
May 1 - 2 Okanagan

For more information, contact:

Literacy B.C.
Phone: 1-800-663-1293
Fax: (604) 684-8520
Email: literacy_bc@douglas.bc.ca

B.C. Builds a Literacy Electronic Network

Literacy practitioners from every region in B.C. are using an electronic network to communicate.

The electronic network is made possible by the adult literacy cost-shared program of the NLS and the Ministry of Education, Skills and Training. The NLS also recently contributed a special grant to include the Literacy B.C. board in the network.

Literacy B.C. manages the project in partnership with Capilano College. Capilano College provides the electronic communications system which uses FirstClass email and conferencing software.

The project is designed to give the B.C. literacy community the opportunity to use electronic communication to share information, ideas and resources and to conference about issues and topics in the field. A further goal is to decrease the sense of isolation experienced by some people who work in literacy, especially

those who live outside major cities.

Approximately forty practitioners currently communicate with colleagues on the network. This pilot group includes members of the Literacy Materials Bulletin Committee, the Fundamental Articulation Committee, and the six B.C. Regional Literacy Coordinators. The long-term goal of the project is to make the network available to everyone in the B.C. literacy field.

Over the next few months, community literacy groups and the Literacy B.C. board will be brought on-line. This phase of the project will also focus on planning for learner and tutor participation.

For further information about the project, contact:

Sandy Middleton, Project Coordinator
Literacy B.C.

Phone: 1-800-663-1293

Fax: (604) 684-8520

Email: s_middleton@douglas.bc.ca 

On-line conference examines family literacy

What are the new and existing family literacy materials; how useful are they; and how can you order them?

These questions are the initial focus of an on-line conference currently taking place on B.C.'s electronic network. Other topics and issues in family literacy will be addressed in the conference over the next few months.

The conference is moderated by

Barbara Bate of the University College of the Fraser Valley. Barbara has many years' experience in coordinating family literacy programming.

A description of all the materials discussed in the conference is available from Literacy B.C. In addition, if you are interested in joining the conference on-line, contact Sandy Middleton at Literacy B.C.

Resources

A message to our readers about resources

In the *Literacy B.C. Newsletter* our goal is to keep you informed about new literacy resources, especially those produced in B.C.

Remember that every resource reviewed in the newsletter can be borrowed from us. As well, we often have multiple copies of the products of B.C. literacy cost-shared projects to distribute. However, the high demand for these resources means that sometimes you call us to get a copy

and our supply has already run out. In order to increase your opportunity to access these resources, we can provide you with a list of depository libraries in B.C. that receive all cost-shared products. If you find that we have run out of copies - or there's a waiting list to borrow it from us - you can look for a copy from the depository library nearest you. Give us a call and we'll give you the library's address and phone number. Phone: 1-800-663-1293

LEARNING TOGETHER PLAYING TOGETHER



This family literacy program guide describes activities that encourage parents with low literacy skills to share in their children's learning experiences.

The guide is the product of a family literacy program developed by the Cranbrook Boys' and Girls' Club and the College of the Rockies. The program was funded through the B.C. literacy cost-shared program.

The program was designed to actively

involve parents with low literacy skills in all aspects of their children's development. The play activities in the book, which can be used at home or in a group, are based on themes such as: Art-literacy connection; We are music; and Science - the wonder of it all.

Copies are available from Literacy B.C. while supplies last. Phone: 1-800-663-1293.

Resources

Families in Motion: A Success Story

The four-year history of a community-based family literacy program in the Fraser Valley is detailed in this handbook.

Production of the handbook was funded by the B.C. literacy cost-shared program and sponsored by the program partners, including the University College of the Fraser Valley.

The handbook tells the story of "Families in Motion," which began in 1992 as a pilot project and continues

today as a successful community-owned family literacy program in Chilliwack.

Topics in the handbook include: the role of the community partners; sustaining the project over time; and the challenge of shifting responsibility from government seed money to community ownership.

The handbook, and an accompanying video of informal interviews with the staff and participants of "Families in Motion," are available on loan from Literacy B.C. Phone: 1-800-663-1293.

The Canadian Book of abc's

Celebrating the letters of the alphabet is the theme of this colourful book for pre-school children.

The book showcases the creative talents of 26 Canadian advertising agencies, in partnership with ABC CANADA. Each agency purchased a letter of the alphabet and depicts it through words and pictures in a double-page spread.

Proceeds from the book go to the ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation to help children of all ages learn to learn. ABC CANADA is a joint initiative of business and labour, supporting the development of a fully literate Canadian population.

You can purchase the book for \$10 at Chapters, Coles, Smithbooks, and The Book Company bookstores. You can also order it directly from ABC CANADA

for \$10.00 (plus shipping and handling). Contact:

ABC CANADA
1450 Don Mills Road
Don Mills, Ontario M3B 2X7
Phone: (416) 442-2292
Fax: (416) 442-2293

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home and native
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Resources

Prison Education

This recently published report describes the delivery of a learning program that used volunteer tutors in a correctional setting.

The program was delivered in 1994-95 by the John Howard Society of B.C. The program partners included the Vancouver Pre-Trial Services Centre - a 224 bed remand centre in Vancouver's downtown eastside - and the Carnegie Adult Learning Centre, which provided the tutor training. The program was funded by the B.C. literacy cost-shared program.

The special skills and training required for volunteers to teach inmates in a correctional setting are a focus of the report, which includes a manual developed for tutors who participated in the program. As well, the report provides insights into issues such as working within the institutional framework of a prison, and effectively recruiting inmates as learners.

Copies of the report are available from Literacy B.C. while supplies last. Phone: 1-800-663-1293.

Group Support for Learners in Transition: The Development of Support Networks

This handbook focuses on providing learners with support and encouragement when they leave the classroom and move on to further education or employment.

The handbook is the product of a 12 month pilot project at the Victoria READ Society, funded by the B.C. literacy cost-shared program.

The handbook provides a model for the development of support networks during what can be a difficult transition period for learners. Support networks provide learners with a safe and comfortable

environment where they can share experiences, develop confidence, and learn to set goals, speak assertively, handle setbacks, and find support within themselves and in their communities. At Victoria READ, the network included a weekly support group, workshops on different topics, and one-to-one meetings between learners and the project coordinator.

I'm more determined now and stronger now that I can do it. Before I would have backed down and given up - a learner who participated in Victoria READ's support network.

Copies of the handbook are available from Literacy B.C. while supplies last. Phone: 1-800-663-1293.

Resources

Training Materials for Learner Involvement

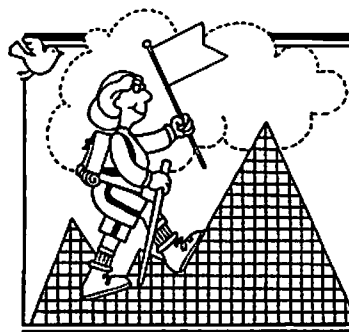
How can learners contribute to the work of literacy agencies? How can their contributions be encouraged, supported, and acknowledged?

Those questions are addressed in this handbook, the product of a project at Project Literacy Victoria that was funded by the B.C. literacy cost-shared program.

The handbook includes suggestions about:

- ◆ involving learners in interviewing and selecting volunteer tutors, and in tutor training
- ◆ developing a "learner-friendly" board
- ◆ making the Annual General Meeting more interesting for learners

Copies of the handbook are available from Literacy B.C. while supplies last.
Phone: 1-800-663-1293.



Think of a pyramid of activities at different levels of involvement. All of the activities are important to the organization. Learners need more skills to help in some of the activities. They might like to start with jobs that are easier or that don't take as big a commitment.

Literacy Needs Assessments for Community Groups

A model for literacy agencies and community groups to work together in reaching out to young adults learners is presented in this book.

The book is the product of a research project by Project Literacy Victoria that was funded by the B.C. literacy cost-shared program.

The project was designed to help community groups assess the literacy needs of their clients and refer them to existing literacy programs. A further goal was to identify barriers to participation in these programs.

Copies of the book are available from Literacy B.C. while supplies last.
Phone: 1-800-663-1293.

Resources

Reader's Helper

A set of tutorials designed to help literacy learners study literature. The two-page tutorials, which are produced and distributed monthly, deal with topics such as: narrators and narration; style and tone; setting; and characterization. To be put on the mailing list, contact:

Christine Jackman
274 North Patterson Street
Prince George, B.C. V2M 3J2
Phone: (250) 562-4219
Fax: (250) 562-4864
Email: campbelljackman@bc.sympatico.ca

Testing the Balance: 50/50 Management in a Volunteer Tutor Program

A report describing the concept of 50/50 management - maintaining a balance between bringing people into a program and keeping them in a program. Order for \$10.00 (including shipping) from:

Prospects Literacy Association
9913 - 108 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5H 1A5
Phone: (403) 421-7323
Fax: (403) 421-7324

Working in Concert: Federal, Provincial and Territorial Actions in Support of Literacy in Canada

A current profile of literacy activities in Canada, published by the NLS. Copies are available from Literacy B.C. while supplies last. Phone: 1-800-663-1293.

Document Literacy: A Guide for Workplace Trainers and Educators

A guide designed to familiarize educators with the complexities of document use in the workplace, and to assist them in preparing adult learners to effectively use these documents in their working lives. Order for \$30.00 (plus GST and shipping) from:

SkillPlan
B.C. Construction Industry Skills
Improvement Council
4303 Canada Way
Burnaby, B.C.
V5G 1J3
Phone: (604) 436-1126
Fax: (604) 437-7539
Email: skilplan@axionet.com

Opening Doors to Learning

A guide written for parents with primary school age children who are experiencing difficulties with reading, writing, and spelling. The guide is designed to help parents access services for their children through the public school system and in the private sector. Order for \$10 (plus GST and shipping) from:

Prince George Dyslexic Support Society
Dyslexia Resource Centre
101 - 490 Quebec Street
Prince George, B.C. V2L 5N5
Phone: (250) 564-8011

Resources

Roast Moose and Rosaries, Fred & Mary's Story

Fred and Mary Courtoreille are husband and wife and Cree Elders of the Salteau First Nations in northeastern B.C. This book tells of their lives between 1910 and 1930 when Mary was growing up in a residential school and Fred was growing up on the land.

Fred and Mary tell their story through their spoken words. The written record in this book was produced as a group effort by the students of the Muskoti Learning Centre in Moberly Lake, B.C., and other individuals. Funding was provided through the B.C. literacy cost-shared program.

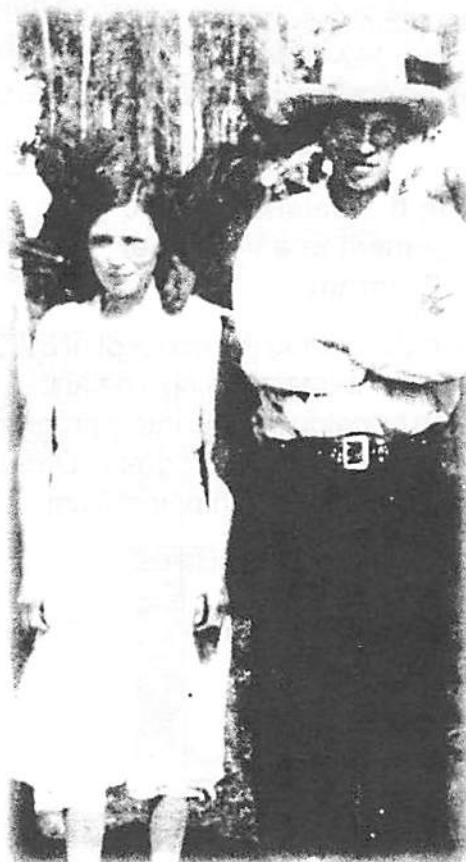
I have never been in jail but we figured it was like jail because we were not allowed to speak to anyone outside the convent. The road was very near the convent yet we were not allowed to go out. We never had freedom and we felt like the prisoners we had read about -
from Mary's story

I love bush life and learn a lot from Mother Nature. I never learn to read or write. I don't speak nor understand the English language until I am a teenager. I learned that language the hard way. My wife now correct me when I pronounce the words wrong -
from Fred's story

Copies are available from Literacy B.C. while supplies last. Phone:
1-800-663-1293.

The book, along with teacher's guides for advanced and fundamental learning levels, can also be purchased for approximately \$10.00 each from:

Twin Sisters Publishing Company
P.O. Box 160
Moberly Lake, B.C. V0C 1J0
Phone: (250) 788-9754
Fax: (250) 788-9347 ☐



Fred and Mary Courtoreille

Conferences

Provincial Adult Literacy Forum

Ideas are invited for topics and workshops to be discussed at a provincial forum on literacy next fall

The Provincial Adult Literacy Forum will take place November 28 - 29, 1997 in Victoria. The forum is sponsored by Project Literacy Victoria and its partners.

The goals of the forum are to:

- ◆ help participants develop strategies for identifying potential learners and improving access to literacy programs
- ◆ feature projects, research and innovations in the literacy field
- ◆ encourage coordination and partnerships among literacy agencies, education, government, non-profit societies and business
- ◆ emphasize to business, industry, unions and workers the benefits of a literate workforce

The registration fee is expected to be about \$95. To ensure you receive a registration form - and to contribute your ideas about the forum - contact:

Project Literacy Victoria
930 A Yates Street
Victoria, B.C. V8V 4Z3
Phone: (250) 381-3755
Fax: (250) 381-4911

Great Teaching Seminar '97

Post-secondary educators will have a unique opportunity this spring to reflect upon and explore the challenges they experience in teaching.

The Great Teaching Seminar will take place June 8 - 10 at the Naramata Centre near Penticton. The seminar is sponsored by The Centre for Curriculum, Transfer and Technology.

Designed for educators who are interested in improving their teaching, this professional development event has been in existence in North America for over 25 years. Educators with experience in the Great Teaching Seminar format will serve as the facilitating team.

The goals of the seminar are to:

- ◆ provide opportunities to find realistic, creative approaches to instructional problems
- ◆ facilitate the exchange of information and ideas among educators across disciplines and institutions

For further information, contact:

Diane Morrison or Cheryle Wilson
Centre for Curriculum, Transfer and Technology
Fifth Floor, 1483 Douglas Street
Victoria, B.C. V8W 3K4
Phone: (250) 387-6065
Fax: (250) 387-9142
Email: cwilson@ctt.bc.ca

Conferences

Foundations of literacy: teaching and learning

Issues and strategies related to early and later literacy development - and second language learning - will be the focus of this summer institute.

The second annual **Summer Institute on Balanced Early Literacy Programs** will take place August 18 - 20 in the Lower Mainland. The institute is sponsored by The Early Literacy Network - an informal network of Lower Mainland educators interested in early literacy - and by Simon Fraser University.

Themes at the institute will include:

- ◆ early literacy assessment and instruction
- ◆ implementing guided reading in a classroom
- ◆ supporting literacy development when English is an additional language

A mini-conference to examine the unique roles parents and administrators play in the development of early literacy will also take place on August 20.

For further information, contact:

The Early Literacy Network
c/o Field Relations
Faculty of Education
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6
Phone: (604) 291-4156
Fax: (604) 291-5882
Email: logilvy@sfu.ca 

Making The Links: A Critical Look at Community and the Internet

5th Annual British Columbia Library Association Information Policy Conference

Simon Fraser University
Harbour Centre Campus
Vancouver
March 21 - 22, 1997
Phone: (604) 430-9633
Fax: (604) 430-8595

Dyslexia: Meeting the challenges of cultural diversity and technological change

1997 Spring Conference Orton Dyslexia Society

University of British Columbia
Vancouver
May 3, 1997
Phone: (604) 734-9178

Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. 1997 Annual General Meeting and Conference

Okanagan University College
Kelowna
May 15-16, 1997

Thank you, Literacy B.C. donors!

We want to thank the following individuals and organizations for donating \$100 or more to Literacy B.C. in the past few months:

Deanna Sordi

The Stewart Fund

United Way of the Lower Mainland

Thank you also to those who gave up to \$100:

Barbara Ash

Mardy Bodie-Atkin

Marj Gill

Tony and Denise Guglielmin

Lisa Lee

Holly Nederpel

Canadian Bar Association, B.C. Branch members

We would also like to express our gratitude for recent donations of books for the Literacy B.C. resource library. Thank you to:

Centre for Curriculum, Transfer and Technology

Bev Krieger

Laubach Literacy of Canada

Thanks also to **Quebecor Printing** for its donation of family literacy stamps.

We also want to express our appreciation to the **Dominion Directory Company** and **Great Pacific News** for their help in advertising the LEARN page through large posters mounted on the side of Great Pacific News trucks in the Lower Mainland. The Dominion Directory Company donated \$1,500 to cover the costs of printing the posters. Great Pacific News donated the advertising space on the side of their trucks for the full month of February 1997. The donation will continue for the next year as space is available.

LEARN • LEARN • LEARN • LEARN • LEARN • LEARN

Helping people learn to learn.



Are you an adult who would like to improve your reading, writing or math? If so, call the number at the bottom of this page. There are people in your community willing to help. You'll soon discover that you're not alone.



 Literacy is everybody's business.

Call toll free 1-800-663-1293 Literacy B.C.

All of these wonderful donations are helping us to reach adults who want and need to improve their literacy skills.

Thank you!

Announcements

New centre to be an agent of change in post-secondary education

B.C. has a new Centre for Curriculum, Transfer and Technology (CCTT).

The CCTT represents a merger of the Centre for Curriculum and Professional Development and the Standing Committee on Educational Technology. The Executive Director is Gary Bauslaugh.

The new Centre is the result of a provincial strategic planning process for the college and institute system. CCTT's mandate is to be an agent for change in post-secondary education in B.C. In addition to curriculum and professional development activities, the CCTT will focus on three areas:

- ◆ encouraging new approaches to curriculum, specifically the learning outcomes approach
- ◆ ensuring learners are able to transfer efficiently and progress through the system to acquire a recognized credential
- ◆ supporting the increased use of educational technology

Contact:

Centre for Curriculum, Transfer and Technology
Fifth Floor, 1483 Douglas Street
Victoria, B.C. V8W 3K4

Phone: (250) 387-6065

Fax: (250) 387-9142

WWW: <http://www.camosun.bc.ca/~ccpd> 

Learners: looking for a pen pal?

Literacy learners at the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House in Vancouver - an outreach program of Vancouver Community College - want to write to other learners.

Write in care of:

**Lynda Stewart
Mount Pleasant
Neighbourhood House
800 East Broadway
Vancouver, B.C. V5T 1Y1**

Who we are

Our mission is to support literacy learners, to develop community partnerships, and to present a united voice on literacy.

We are supported by the B.C. Ministry of Education, Skills, and Training; the National Literacy Secretariat; memberships; and donations.

Literacy B.C.
622 - 510 West Hastings Street
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Email: literacy_bc@douglas.bc.ca
WWW: <http://www.nald.ca/lbc.htm>

Donations to Literacy B.C. are tax deductible.